

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1-35 stand rejected. The specification has been objected to and claims 3, 24, and 32 have been objected to. Claims 2 and 23 are canceled herein.

***Objections***

Regarding the objection to the specification. Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the support found in the specification.

Regarding the objection to claim 3, Applicants have amended claims 3, 24 and 32 to correct the informalities.

***Rejections***

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC § 101 as directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Applicants have canceled claim 23 without prejudice and submit that the rejection is moot.

Claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended the claims where appropriate to correct the antecedent basis and indefiniteness pointed out by the examiner. Applicant submits that claims 12, 13, 18, 24, and 27 have proper antecedent basis for the terms noted by the examiner and request reconsideration of the same.

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-26, 28-32 and 34-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bracho et al. (US Patent No. 5,974,417). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the below remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 2. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

receiving at least two event messages each comprising a sequence number and a time stamp from the first event source when events occur at the first event source;  
  
determining the order of events within the first event source on the basis of the sequence number within the at least two event messages

The examiner in rejecting claim 2 indicated that Bracho teaches the above recited limitations in Figure 9, abstract, and column 14, lines 6-18 of Bracho. Applicants disagree that Bracho teaches determining the order of events on the basis of sequence numbers as claimed. The cited portion of Bracho teaches that duplicate events are discarded on the basis of sequence numbers, but not that the sequence numbers are used for ordering events. Moreover, column 10, lines 1-19 teaches that:

all events having the same priority level will be delivered by the hub 106 in the order that they are accepted by the publisher.... Inter-publisher ordering is not guaranteed, since it depends on routing and availability issues.

The cited portion of Bracho therefore seems to teach away from the notion of ordering events on the basis of a sequence number. For at least that reason, Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, patentably defines over Bracho. Similarly, independent claim 24 also patentably defines over Bracho for similar reasons. For example, claim 24, recites in part:

said first digital device subscribing to a first event source operating on the second digital device whereby the first digital device receives event notification messages each comprising a sequence number and a time stamp from the first event source when events occur on the first digital device

The examiner also rejected claim 32 but provided little guidance for the grounds of rejection. Rather, the examiner indicated that claim 32 was rejected on grounds similar to those of previous claims. Nevertheless, claim 32 recites:

requesting a service to be performed by the first digital device after receiving the indication that the event has occurred

Applicants submit that the examiner has not indicated where such a limitation is found in Bracho or any other reference. For at least that reason, Applicants submit that claim 32 patentably defines over Bracho.

**DOCKET NO.:** MSFT-0735/183222.01  
**Application No.:** 10/016,900  
**Office Action Dated:** March 20, 2006

**PATENT**

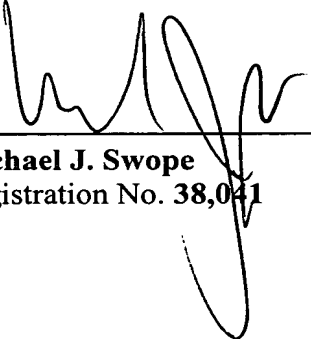
Inasmuch as claims 3-4, 6-16, 18-22, 24-26, 28-31, and 34-35, depend from independent claims 1, 24, and 32, Applicants submit that they also patentably define over Bracho at least for the same reason as their respective independent claim.

Claims 5, 17, 27 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracho. Applicants submit that they also patentably define over Bracho at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend.

### **CONCLUSION**

Claims 1, 3-22, 24-35 are in condition for allowance. An early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

**Date: June 20, 2006**



---

**Michael J. Swope**  
Registration No. 38,041

Woodcock Washburn LLP  
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor  
Philadelphia PA 19103  
Telephone: (215) 568-3100  
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439